



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, November 10, 2008

Electricity

Substation Fire Shuts Transmission Line—Subsequent Load Shedding Briefly Cuts Power to More than 110,000 SCE Customers in California November 7

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) directed Southern California Edison (SCE) to initiate rotating electricity outages after a substation fire forced shut a transmission line November 7. CAISO issued the directive to avert a squeeze on the state's power grid. SCE started cutting power by 11:25 AM, local time, and said it restored all service by 1 PM. Some customers, however, said they were still without electricity at 2:30 PM.

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20081108/NEWS01/811080322>

Progress Energy's 811 MW Brunswick Nuke Unit 2 in North Carolina Shut by November 10

The unit shut after a safety relief valve failed, according to a report with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). A spokeswoman was unsure when the unit would be back online. The NRC reported that on the morning of November 9 the unit was operating at full power.

Bloomberg News, 09:55 November 10, 2008

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1039275220081110>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Duke Energy's 846 MW Oconee Nuke Unit 3 in South Carolina Ramped Up to 34 Percent November 10 after Friday Shutdown

The unit tripped automatically on November 7 "due to a reactor protective systems (RPS) actuation," according to a report with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Workers repaired the faulty equipment and returned the unit to 34 percent power today, a spokeswoman said. She said the unit should return to full output later today. The NRC reported that on the morning of November 9 the unit was not operating.

Bloomberg News, 09:37 November 10, 2008

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1044616820081110>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Luminant's 1,150 MW Comanche Peak Nuke Unit 2 in Texas at Full Power by November 10

The unit slowed to 45 percent from full power by November 9. It returned to full power by this morning, November 10, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

PPL's 1,111 MW Susquehanna Nuke Unit 2 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by November 9

The unit slowed to 80 percent power by the morning of November 8, but returned to full power by November 9, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Dominion's 925 MW North Anna Nuke Unit 1 in Virginia at Full Power by November 8

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of November 7 the unit was operating at 85 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Calpine's 593 MW Metcalf Energy Center Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by November 8

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200811081515.html>

AES's 227 MW Huntington Beach Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Ramps up by November 8

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit ramped up from an unplanned curtailment of 136 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200811081515.html>

Reliant's 215 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by November 9

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200811091515.html>

OPG's 515 MW Pickering Nuke Unit 4 in Ontario Shut November 10

Reuters, 10:07 November 10, 2008

OPG Shuts 500 MW Pickering Nuke Unit 4 in Ontario November 8

The unit should be back online within days, an OPG spokesman said.

Bloomberg News, 09:50 November 10, 2008

TransAlta's 381 MW Keephills Coal-fired Unit 2 in Alberta Shut November 7

Reuters, 10:07 November 10, 2008

Sempra's 625 MW Termoelectrica De Mexicali Gas-fired Unit 1 in Mexico Returns to Service by November 8

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200811081515.html>

Update: OPG's 490 MW Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 1 in Ontario Back Online by November 10

The unit went offline by November 6.

Reuters, 09:34 November 10, 2008

NB Power Says Copper Theft a Significant Concern in New Brunswick, Canada

Thieves have taken copper from NB Power substations, generation facilities and distribution lines, costing the utility tens of thousands of dollars and disrupting service to electric customers, the company said in a joint press conference with Crime Stoppers and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. NB Power started a program in July 2007 to mark its copper—under the plan, stolen goods would bear NB Power identification and, in theory, allow the company to pinpoint where they were taken from. In addition, NB Power has offered money for information leading to arrests and convictions of copper thieves.

<http://timetranscript.canadaeast.com/news/article/476126>

Carbon-Cutting Policies Could Threaten U.S. Power Grid Reliability—NERC Report

In discussing a new report on grid reliability, the president of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) expressed concern that “when viewed from a continent-wide perspective, current climate initiatives do not adequately address key reliability objectives, particularly the need for a strong and robust transmission system.” Utilities have proposed 20,000 MW of new gas-fired power plants, slated to open from 2008 to 2016 making the utility industry highly dependent on that fuel. Further the report concludes that “retirements of coal-fired plants over a short timeline could result in the loss of generation needed to support the integrity of the bulk power system and thus, severely impact reliability.” Even as the nation addresses climate change, NERC said it must be conscious of potential reliability limitations. “Managing carbon credits and allowances to permit critical coal (and gas) facilities to run will be essential to maintaining reliability.”

Reuters, 10:49 November 10, 2008

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/8161533.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

Petroleum

Update: Husky Restarts Hydrocracker after Upgrade at 170,000 b/d Lima, Ohio Refinery

Husky shut the unit in late October, as the company planned to boost the refinery’s output by 5,000 b/d, a spokesman said earlier. Operators restarted the unit, and a spokesman expected it to resume normal rates within 12 hours, according to a November 10 source.

Bloomberg News, 13:49 November 10, 2008

PipeStem Energy Group to Expand Marrero Terminal in Louisiana by 1.5 Million Barrels

PipeStem Energy Group purchased the former Chevron terminal, renamed it “Marrero Terminal,” and announced plans to expand it by 1.5 million barrels. At present, the facility’s capacity is 590,000 barrels, according to the company’s website. The expansion will serve the black oil market, but PipeStem said it would reserve some space for renewable fuels.

<http://www.pipestemenergy.com/location.php?loc=marrero&page=services>

<http://www.prnewswire.com/mnr/pipestemenergy/35949/>

Iraq Stops Oil Shipments along Iraq-Turkey Pipeline November 10—Shipper

A shipping agent did not know the reason for the shutdown, but said the pipeline could restart later today. Prior to the disruption, the line had been moving about 432,000 b/d.

Reuters, 11:56 November 10, 2008

OPEC Crude Output Dips 210,000 b/d from September-to-October—Platts

OPEC produced an average of 32.26 million b/d of oil in October, or 210,000 b/d less than the 32.47 million b/d in September, a Platts survey found. Excluding Iraq and Indonesia, the group pumped 29.11 million b/d in October, also down 210,000 b/d from the month prior. OPEC’s latest quota, which does not include Iraq and Indonesia, was 27.308 million b/d.

<http://www.platts.com/About%20Platts/Press%20Room/2008/110908.xml>

Update: Despite Lagging Demand, Saudi Aramco On track to Raise Oil Capacity to 12.5 Million b/ in 2009—Chief Executive

Saudi Aramco, Saudi Arabia’s state oil firm, will raise its oil production capacity to 12.5 million b/d by mid-2009, the company’s Chief Executive said November 9. That figure includes 500,000 b/d from an area it shares with Kuwait.

Reuters, 03:13 November 9, 2008

Bloomberg News, 07:17 November 9, 2008

Russian Companies to Export at 75 Percent of Normal Rates Citing High Export Duties

Russian oil companies will send just 75 percent of their planned November crude exports, a Transneft official said, after a November 1 export duty-reduction failed to fully-satisfy the firms’ requests. The official said the cut was “a temporary phenomenon,” and that “oil companies are simply being overcautious due to high oil export duties.”

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSL951530320081109>

Natural Gas

Update: Williams to Resume Normal Throughput along Appomattox County Natural Gas Pipeline in Virginia after September Explosion

The company reduced the line after an explosion shut another Appomattox County pipeline in September. Williams expects to resume normal rates of 800 pounds per square inch on November 10, a news report said.
Bloomberg News, 14:43 November 7, 2008

Power Outages at Tilden Gas Plant in Texas over Weekend

A power outage forced shut all plant equipment November 7, according to a filing with state regulators. Even after the outage, however, “the main boiler would not restart and the reboiler would not reach operating temperatures.” Operators recirculated gases, the boiler returned to service, and the reboiler established operational temperatures. The event lasted nearly 12 hours, from November 7-8. The plant lost power a second time over the weekend, another filing reported, when a bird shorted a Karnes Electric substation November 9. Karnes restored service and Tilden recovered the downed equipment. That incident lasted two hours.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=116411>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=116396>

Big Spring Boost Station Shuts in Texas November 8

The Big Spring Booster Station shut for at least nine hours November 8 due to “high discharge pressure,” according to a filing with state regulators. The shutdown occurred after “a large liquid slug hit the Spraberry Gas plant” at 8:30 PM on November 7. As a result, “the plant backed out the field gathering to process these liquids,” which led to higher pressure along the discharge line. That, in turn, shut the booster. The incident resulted in flaring.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=116417>

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
November 10, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	61.23	64.80	96.24
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	6.60	6.18	6.59

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Dominion Reports 11,946 Customers without Power in Virginia November 9

As of 9:50 PM: https://www.dom.com/news/outage_sos.jsp

Sempra Energy to Temporarily Switch 170 MW Coal-fired Twin Oaks Power Plant in Texas to Biomass

GNW, 10:42 November 10, 2008

Update: Duke Energy Signs Used Fuel Contract with U.S. Department of Energy for Proposed William States Lee III Nuclear Station in South Carolina

<http://www.duke-energy.com/news/releases/2008111001.asp>

NRC Denies Opponents' Appeal Regarding Metal Fatigue at 640 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant in New Jersey

<http://www.app.com/article/20081107/NEWS02/811070368/1070/NEWS02>

Brattle Group Says U.S. Utility Industry Will Need \$1.5-2.0 Trillion Investment between 2010 and 2030 to Maintain Current Energy Reliability

<http://www.brattle.com/NewsEvents/NewsDetail.asp?RecordID=568>

BP to Shut Fuel Gas Line as Part of Steam Turbine Project at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery November 10-24—Work Will Cut Fuel Gas Production

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=116036>

Bloomberg News, 11:01 November 10, 2008

Pump Seal Failure Triggers Approximately-200 Gallon Heavy Crude Spill During Maintenance Shutdown at Valero's 182,200 Delaware City, Delaware Refinery November 8

Bloomberg News, 13:06 November 9, 2008

Upset Triggers Flaring at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery November 8—No Affect to Production as Company Restarts Boiler

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=116395>

Reuters, 09:38 November 10, 2008

Bloomberg News, 12:06 November 10, 2008

Tanker Truck Crashes, Spills About 3,500 Gallons of Jet Fuel in Massachusetts November 6

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081107/NEWS02/311079930/-1/news>

Transport Tanker Carrying About 500 Barrels of Fuel Catches Fire in Ontario November 10

<http://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1289938>

Update: MMS Plans November 12 Teleconference to Discuss Lease Process for O&G Development Offshore Virginia

DJN, 10:58 November 10, 2008

Pump Failure at Tilden Gas Plant in Texas November 9

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=116410>

Update: Algonquin Gas Transmission Receives FERC Environmental Approval for Planned HubLine/East-to-West Natural Gas Pipeline Expansion in New England

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Chugach Electric Association Files Petition to Disallow Natural Gas Exports from Cook Inlet, Alaska to Asia

http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews+articleid_2781178.html

U.S. Uranium Production Dips 9 Percent in Third Quarter 2008, Year-on-Year—EIA

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7434505.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

Update: Saudi Arabia to Shrink Crude Deliveries to Asian Refiners by 5 Percent, or about 175,000 b/d, in December—Nation is Expected to Reduce Exports by 466,000 b/d, Based on Recent OPEC Agreement

Reuters, 08:03 November 10, 2008

Update: Rebel Group MEND Releases Four Oil Workers in Nigeria

Reuters, 17:44 November 9, 2008

Militants Assault O&G Producing Facility at Soku in Nigeria November 10—Military Says it Deters Attack

DJN, 12:50 November 10, 2008

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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